

Message Text

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SUBJ: FESTAC: INVITATIONS BY NIGERIANS

REF : STATE 284558

1. TO BE RESPONSIVE TO QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL, CAO CALLED ON FESTAC INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR, PROFESSOR CHIKE ONWUACHI, NOVEMBER 24. ONWUACHI WAS COOPERATIVE IN ATTEMPTING ANSWER QUESTIONS. HE HAD SEEN LISTS PARAS 2 AND 3 REFTEL BUT WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS DESCRIBED PARA 4.

2. AS FAR AS ONWUACHI CONCERNED, LISTS OF "INVITED GUEST PERFORMERS" AND "SPECIAL GUESTS/DISTINGUISHED ELDERS" CONSTITUTE SINGLE LIST WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED ALONG WITH LISTS FROM OTHER PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. ONWUACHI JUDGED THAT "2 OR 3" FROM COMBINED U.S. LIST WILL BE INVITED (AND ALL COSTS PAID) BY INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE (IFC). LATER IN DISCUSSION ONWUACHI SUGGESTED THAT IF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS WERE INVITED (AND TRANSPORTATION PAID FOR) BY NORTH AMERICAN ZONAL COMMITTEE (NAZ), THEY COULD BE HOUSED AND TREATED AS DISTINGUISHED GUESTS BY IFC. THIS WOULD BE AT THE DISCRETION OF PRESIDENT FINGESI. HE SAID THAT PERSONALITIES (SUCH AS ARTHEA FRANKLIN) WOULD NOT BE INVITED AS PERFORMERS BUT "IF THE SPIRIT MOVED THEM" WHILE THEY ARE HERE, ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR THEM TO PERFORM. ONWUACHI SAID THE LIST OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS OF THE IFC WOULD BE COMPLETED SOON AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE THE LIST OF AMERICAN CONTINGENT WHEN
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AVAILABLE. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ONWUACHI USED THE FIGURES

"2 OR 3", CAO HAD IMPRESSION FROM HIS VAGUENESS ON ISSUE OF WHO PAYS FOR OTHERS THAT IFC MIGHT BE PREPARED TO PICK UP COSTS FOR SOME OTHERS IF REQUIRED.)

3. ONWUACHI CLAIMED TO BE UNFAMILIAR WITH LISTS DISCUSSED PARA 4. HE NOTED THAT CATEGORY "A" AND CATEGORY "B" APPEAR TO BE THE APPROXIMATELY 1,000-MAN U.S. CONTINGENT AS PLANNED BY DONALDSON. REGARDING CATEGORY "C", HE EMPHASIZED THAT NOWHERE NEAR 300 AMERICANS COULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INVITATIONS BY THE IFC, SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S TOTAL GUEST LIST CAN ONLY INCLUDE APPROXIMATELY 1,000 SPECIAL INVITEES FROM ALL COUNTRIES. FOR THE U.S. IT WOULD INCLUDE THE "2 OR 3" SELECTED FROM THE COMBINED LIST (PARA 2 ABOVE), AND A NUMBER OF "OFFICIAL GUESTS." (THE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL GUESTS IS TO BE BASED UPON AN OFFICIAL INVITATION FROM HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO TO PRESIDENT FORD AND AN INVITATION FROM PRESIDENT FINGESI TO AN APPROPRIATE CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL IN THE CULTURAL FIELD. THESE PERSONS WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BRING "APPROPRIATE-SIZED" ENTOURAGES.) FINALLY, FOUR STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS FROM THE UNITED STATES WILL BE INVITED. (THIRTY-TWO ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS IS THE WORLDWIDE FIGURE.) ONWUACHI SAID THAT THE 39 DISTINGUISHED ELDERS, 50 U.S. COMMITTEE SPECIAL GUESTS, 39 INVITED GUEST PERFORMERS, 50 YOUTH CADRE, 20 FILMMAKERS, ETC., ARE ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NAZ. (COMMENT: ONWUACHI DID NOT ASK FOR ADVICE OR RECOMMENDATION ON U.S. CABINET-LEVEL OFFICIAL.)

4. AFTER CONCLUDING REVIEW OF THE LISTS, ONWUACHI TABLED CABLE FROM DONALDSON DATED NOVEMBER 20 IN WHICH DONALDSON REQUESTS OF IFC ADVANCE OF DOLS125,000 OF THE "REVISED" BUDGET OF DOLS600,000 TO BRING OVER THE 1,000-PERSON NAZ CONTINGENT. THE DOLS125,000 ALLOCATED: DEPOSIT FOR CHARTER AIRCRAFT - DOLS50,000; SHIPMENT OF ART OBJECTS - DOLS62,000; CONTINGENCIES - DOLS13,000. CABLE WENT ON TO RECAPITULATE WHAT DONALDSON CONSIDERS TO BE DOLS50,000 IN FUNDS RAISED IN NIGERIA FOR NAZ. ONWUACHI SAID THAT THESE FUNDS WERE RAISED FOR FESTAC; IF THE DONORS HAD SO SPECIFIED, MONIES COULD HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES, BUT THEY WERE NOT. WHETHER OR NOT DONALDSON WILL FINALLY GET THE MONEY HAS NOT BEEN DECIDED. FINAL PARAGRAPH OF CABLE REPORTED UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT USG HAD TOLD DONALDSON THAT DOLS50,000 WAS AVAILABLE TO SEND OVER ONE TROUPE, WHICH HE WAS ASKED TO SELECT.

5. IN FINAL GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FESTAC PREPARATIONS, ONWUACHI SAID THAT HE FELT THAT U.S. CONTINGENT OF "200-300" WOULD BE CREDITABLE IF IT CONTAINED TOP NAMES, SUCH AS SAMMY DAVIS, JR. (WHO, HE NOTED, WAS NOT ON DONALDSON'S LIST) OR ARETHA FRANKLIN. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE DEPART-

MENT OF STATE'S INTENTION TO ASSURE AT LEAST ONE CONTINGENT
BY PROTECTING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.
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